proposals to CEA and other relevant authorities for their approvals.

Supply of Gas Through Pipelines in Delhi by GAIL

* 196. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has launched any pilot project in Delhi to supply gas to consumers pipelines;

(b) if so, the total number of consumers proposed to be benefited by the supply;

(c) whether the GAIL has also initiated any action to introduce such facility in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the names of the towns selected for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Around 1200 consumers are proposed to be covered.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Relaxation in Service Period to Central Secretariat Service Officers

*197. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers belonging to Central Secretariat Service at present holding the post of Joint Secretary in various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of these officers do not qualify to become Additional Secretary due to the fact that they have not renderred 25 years of Group 'A' service; and

(c) if so, the reasons for which the Central Secretariat Service, the only Group 'B' service participating in the Central Staffing Scheme, has not been given any relaxation in respect of the number of years of service to be rendered in Group 'A', vis-a-vis other Group 'A' service participating in the Central Staffing Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI. S.R. BALASUB-RAMONIYAN): (a) Thirty-one Officers belonging to the Central Secretariat Service arc presently holding the posts of Joint Secretary/equivalent in various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, as also in autonomous bodies

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Docs not airsc, in view of (b) above.

Issue of Bonds by REC

*198. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rural Electrification Corporation has been allowed by the Reserve Bank of India to issue special bonds for its pumpset energisation programme in rural areas and semi-urban areas;

(b) if so, by when these bonds are likely to be issued;

(c) the total amount to be raised through these bonds; and

(d) whether the funds so raised would be used strictly for energy efficient pumps suitable for lower than the normal vol tage, often available in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India has permitted the subscription to bonds, issued by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) exclusively for financing pumpset energisation programmes in rural and semi-urban areas, to be treated as priority sector